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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the First Modern Agro. Tools - Common Initiative Group (FI.MO.AT.C.I.G), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[08 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Consequences of the enforced disappearances of the interim government of West Cameroon

At least nine leaders of the interim government of SCACUF-a movement for the restoration of the independence of southern Cameroon have disappeared.
A newspape: reported that they were abducted in Nigeria by "un commando Camerounaise infiltre au Nigeria", another newspaper source says that they were abducted by the Nigerian State Security Service (SSS).
According to the newspapers they were abducted on Friday the 5th of January 2018 by the SSS. It says that the SSS went with guns and ammunitions to the hotel when they took them away.
They were about to hold a meeting at NERA hotel Ekwuema, road, Nigeria.
Some of those abducted include:

-Mr. Sisiku Ayuk Tabe
-Dr. Nfor Ngala Nfor
-Dr.Fidelis Nde Che
-Dr.Henry Kimen
-Prof. Augustine Awasum
-Dr. Cornelius Kwanga
-Dr. Cornelius Kwanga
-Mr. Tassang Wilfred
-Dr. Ogork Ntui
-Barrister Elias Eyambe
-Barister Shufai Blaise Berinyuy

Ever since the Cameroonian government's spokesman Minister Issa Tchiroma on the 29th of January 2018 confirmed that these activists abducted in Nigeria were extradite to Cameroon.
But neither the Cameroonian government nor the Nigerian government has been able to present these activists to the public since their abduction, nor accept anyone to visit them in their prison cells, including their wives, husbands, children, friends, other family members, lawyers and the UN human right commissions.

Amnesty International had earlier warned that extradition of these activists to Cameroon could lead to torture.
All the family members of the disappeared confirm that they do not know the whereabouts of all those who have disappeared.
They all agree with the public view that all those abducted may have been murdered or are still in Nigeria or in Cameroon.
Public opinion further holds that it could make some sense if the government can explain to both National and International community why she is keeping the activists in secret despite claiming they have been handed over to the judiciary for interrogations.
As a matter of fact I cannot jump into conclusions to say the activists are actually arbitrarily detained in Cameroon. I have a mixed feeling too: they may not be alive or are still in Nigeria if not in prison in Cameroon.
There have been a lot of kidnappings of government officials, tensions, killings and fighting between government forces and the so-called Ambazonian Defense forces with the characteristics of war in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon. This is in response to the disappearance of the Ambazonian leaders.
It is important to note that before the disappearance of these separatists other activists such as Mancho Bibixy- the coffin revolutionist and Penn Terence with 46 others were arbitrarily detained in Yaoundé central prison in connection with these crises.
Penn Terence, a teacher by profession has been sentenced to a 12-year jail term with a fine of 5millions francs by the Yaoundé military tribunal on Tuesday April 10, 2018.
Penn Terrence made statements in court which have been described by journalists as "daring and tear provoking". He said "the abduction, incarceration, and trial that I have been subjected to before this court is political and challenges the foundational basis of this country-Cameroon". Trial of civilians by military tribunals, he said "contravenes the right to a

fair trial by a competent, independent and impartial court". This also violates all his rights as guaranteed by the universal declaration of human rights.

Penn Terence is neither a member of the army nor possesses any military weapons. He questioned the court" how do you explain the fact that throughout trial this court has shamelessly acted as prosecutor and judge at the same time?" He said I am neither a terrorist nor a secessionist but the political nature of the trial makes it possible for the court to slam the guilty verdict on me.

He told the judge no tribunal including the one on which you preside can solve the Anglophone problem in this country because it is political. He lectured 'the so called Anglophone problem is specific; it has nothing to do with developmental problems plaguing Cameroon as a whole. It is about the lack of institutional protections for the English-Speaking minority, the cultural assimilation of a people and her identity. It is about the ongoing cultural genocide against the English speaking minority". I would like to add that these crises also have roots in the bad decentralization governance of a 36-year old, sit-tight government. Furthermore the Anglophone problem is not just a linguistic minority problem; it has roots in the form of the country with unilateral changes of referral decisions regarding the form of the country at the detriment of the Anglophones.

Government officials have shown discrimination and marginalization of Anglophones in Cameroon. Government officials have likened the union between Anglophones and Francophones in Cameroon to a cube of sugar that is dropped in a basin of water, which melted and disappeared in water. Anglophones are the cube of sugar. A minister also ones said an Anglophone cannot be a president in Cameroon.

A government that has deliberately chosen to use the gun and violence on its people instead of inclusive dialogue and ignored recommendations for inclusive dialogue made by the commonwealth and the United Nations is no longer fit to remain in office.

I would like to cease this opportunity to say that there are thousands of Cameroonian refugees living in Nigeria in concentration camps without sufficient food; many have fled from their homes in villages and towns of fighting between government forces and the Ambazonian Defense forces. Some live in wild life bushes, meanwhile the military has burnt down homes and destroyed both cash and food crops right in the farms. Many public places including markets and schools are burnt down on a daily basis in Cameroon. Threats keep coming on a daily basis from the Ambazonian defence forces through the social media and the dropping of tracks warning civilians to quit their target places such as FAKO and BAMENDA. People live in fear.

The 36-old government should start by releasing all those incarcerated in relation with the Anglophone crises in Cameroon. It should present to the public the Ambazonian leaders she claims are in her keeping. Next the government should call for inclusive dialogue with all stakeholders involved in these crises, including government officials, civil society organizations and others.

The centralization of power and functions of a unitary state, rule by a dictatorial government is very unacceptable.

In as much as many have proposed several solutions to the Anglophone problem and centralization of power in Cameroon, the best solution remains that President Paul Biya should step down. He should be removed if he refuses to step down. Complete decentralization, federation and separation are other solutions proposed by other movements in the Country.

The gradual elimination of the English culture by the government in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon is both a problem itself and an evidence of the marginalization of Anglophones in Cameroon.